

RE: Patent Application #10/651,698, Applicant David S. Goldberg et al.

Dear Sir:

I, Jeffrey S. Dugan declare as follows:

1. I am a resident of the State of Tennessee with an address of 109 Fishery Loop Road, Erwin, TN 37650.

2. I make this Declaration in support of Mr. Goldberg et al.'s above-referenced U.S. patent application [herein "the Goldberg Application"].

3. I have been an inventor of microfilaments since 1991 and hold several U.S. patents on microfilaments and on methods of making microfilaments. In my professional experience I have a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in textile chemistry, as well as 7 years in textile research at Springs Industries, 6 years in fibers manufacturing research at BASF Fiber Products Division, and 11 years as cofounder and Vice President, Research, of Fiber Innovation Technology, one of the world's most innovative specialty fibers producers. I am regularly sought as a speaker at technical conferences covering specialty fiber technology, and a paper on microfiber technology I presented at an INDATEX conference won the award for best paper at the conference.

4. I have reviewed the Goldberg Application, including the pending claims. I understand the invention recited in pending claim 1 of the Goldberg application, and recognize that claim 1 is drawn to "a string mop having a plurality of non-interwoven cords of yarn comprised of split microfilaments." Specifically, I understand that claim 1 of the Goldberg Application recites a mop having at least two cords that are separate and non-interwoven. Each cord comprising a plurality microfilaments twisted together into a bundle and each of the microfilaments are split and comprise a core member, a plurality of projections emanating from the core member and a wedge-shaped insert disposed between every other projection.

5. I have reviewed U.S. Patent 5,804,274 to Nordin [herein "the Nordin Patent"]. My review of the Nordin Patent indicates that the invention recited in the Nordin Patent is a cleaning cloth including loops of yarn. Specifically, the Nordin Patent discloses a cleaning clothing having non-interwoven loops of yarn attached to opposite sides of a base fabric. The loops of yarn are comprised of microfilaments. The Nordin Patent does not disclose the use of split microfilaments in the loops of yarn. More specifically, the Nordin Patent does not disclose the use of split microfilaments that comprise a core member, a plurality of projections emanating from the core

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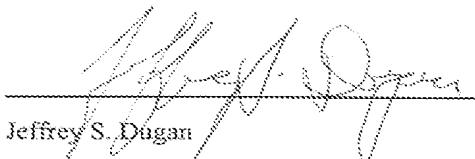
member and a wedge-shaped insert disposed between every other projection.

6. It would not have occurred to me at the time of the Goldberg Application that a yarn [cord] comprising a plurality microfilaments twisted together into a bundle, wherein each of the microfilaments are split to comprise a core member, a plurality of projections emanating from the core member and a wedge-shaped insert disposed between every other projection would be used in a non-interwoven fashion (other than in a nonwoven fabric) as a cord for a string mop. End uses envisioned at the time included staple fibers for use in all kinds of nonwoven fabrics and filament yarns for use in knit or woven applications such as apparel and filtration substrates. Further, it was not known to me at the time that microfilaments would have any superior absorptive behavior (such as renders them useful for mops) merely from their smaller denier. Instead, I would have expected the typically hydrophobic surfaces of the microfilaments to be poorly suited for use in mops, particularly in comparison to the absorptive properties of cotton fibers and yarns.

7. It is of my opinion, that it would not have occurred to a person of skill at the time of the Goldberg Application that yarn [cord] comprising a plurality microfilaments twisted together into a bundle, wherein each of the microfilaments are split to comprise a core member, a plurality of projections emanating from the core member and a wedge-shaped insert disposed between every other projection could be used in a non-interwoven fashion and result in a feasible end product, such as a cord for a string mop. As stated above, the hydrophobic surfaces of the polymers typically envisioned for such splittable fibers would have led a person of skill to anticipate absorptive performance significantly inferior to that observed and also inferior to incumbent mop fibers and yarns such as those made of cotton.

8. I further declare that all statements of the foregoing declaration are made of my own knowledge and are true and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements are made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful and false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above identified application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed by me this 3rd day of August, 2006



Jeffrey S. Dugan

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : David Goldberg
Serial No. : 10/651698
Title : Microfiber Mop Head
Filing Date : 8/29/2003
Group/Art Unit : 1744
Examiner : Laura Cole Guidotti
Confirmation No. : 9205
Agent Docket No. : LEDGE-002

July 11, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Dear Sir,

I, David S. Goldberg, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state of California, having a residence at 8761 Lake Murray Boulevard #4; San Diego, California 92119.
2. I am a co-inventor of the invention described in the above-identified application and submit this Declaration in support of that application [herein the Goldberg Application].
3. I have worked in the textile industry including aspects of industrial and commercial mops for over 9 years, for the last seven years I have been the vice president of operations of Leading Edge Products, Inc., and have held the following positions in the Microfiber and textile industry:

1997-1999 VP Operations -- Edge Tech Industries

Microfiber Textile fabrication, Sourcing, and Purchasing

1999-2006 (Current) -- VP Operations -- Leading Edge Products, Inc.

Microfiber textile fabrication, sourcing and purchasing

Director of Microfiber Product Development and testing.

2004- 2006 (Current) Member of the ISSA -- International Sanitary Supply Association

4. The invention recited in pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application has experienced copying by others. The following outline illustrates a timeline associated with various companies that were approached by Leading Edge Products, Inc. presenting the invention recited in pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application. Each of the various companies commented on the merit of the invention, displayed a lack of interest in picking up the invention from Leading Edge Products, Inc., and then subsequently have offered the invention for sale.

4a. Company A was approached in 2003 by representatives of Leading Edge Products, Inc. At the time Company A did not offer products according to pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application. Moreover, at the time Company A did not have a commercial microfiber program. During presentation of the invention according to pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application, Company A expressed interest and accepted samples of the invention. At a date subsequent to the initial presentation, Company A expressed no interest in the invention. In September of 2005, Company A released notification of an introduction of a microfiber cleaning system. This microfiber cleaning system includes products according to pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application.

4b. Company B was approached in 2003 by representatives of Leading Edge Products, Inc. At the time Company B did not have a string mop including cords comprising split microfiber. At the time of the presentation, of the invention according to

pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application, Company B showed interest in the invention. At a later date, Company B expressed they were not interested in the invention at that time. Subsequently, in 2006 I personally witnessed Company B displaying the invention at their booth at a trade show.

4c. Company C was approached in 2003 by representatives of Leading Edge Products, Inc. Samples of the invention, according to pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application, were sent to Company C. Company C expressed the invention to be a great and innovative idea. Company C did not acquire the invention from Leading Edge Products, Inc. In 2004 at the ISSA industrial cleaning products show in New Orleans, Company C was presenting a product according to pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application.

4d. Company D was approached in 2003 and 2004 by representatives of Leading Edge Products, Inc. Company D expressed no interest in the invention according to pending claim 1. On separate occasions in 2005 and 2006, I personally witnessed Company D displaying the invention at their booth at the Chicago International Housewares Show.

4e. Company E was approached in 2003 and 2004 by representatives of Leading Edge Products, Inc. Subsequent to the initial presentation, Company E expressed no interest in the invention according to pending claim 1. At a date subsequent to the initial presentation, on separate occasions in 2005 and 2006, I personally witnessed Company E displaying the invention at their booth at the Chicago International Housewares Show and at the ISSA Trade Shows in 2005 and 2006. In July, 2006, Company E released notification of an introduction of a Microfiber cleaning system, and Company E has printed the claim that they Developed and offered it for sale

in 2005. This Microfiber cleaning system includes products according to pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application.

Also 4E published a timeline of their accomplishments in the "Building Services Management Magazine" in which they have printed a claim to have introduced, in 2005, what I believe is the invention according to pending claim 1.

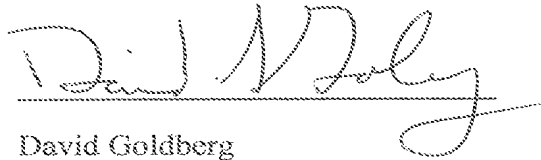
5. The invention recited in pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application has experienced commercial success. The invention recited in pending claim 1, is being sold by retail giants including Costco, Bed Bath & Beyond, Wal-Mart, and Linen & Things. The invention in pending claim 1 is also being offered by companies including Rubber Maid, 3M, California Car Duster, Tuway, Quickie, Casabella, TxF (Texas Feathers). 3M and California Car Duster order and continue to order the invention as recited in pending claim 1 from Leading Edge Products, Inc. and its representatives. The remaining companies offering the invention as recited in pending claim 1 have received the invention from various companies that have copied the invention.

6. The industrial and commercial mop industry is a well established and highly competitive industry where innovation is rare. As published by Sanitary Maintenance Magazine and , and ISSA (just One professional publication and one professional membership organization), in its "Report on Sanitary Supply Distributor Sales" for its reporting members, for the year of 2004, (in which total sales of all industrial commercial products was reported at in excess of \$23 Billion dollars), has reported sales (Not Microfiber) of Duster and Dust Mops in excess of \$246 million dollars, Wet Mops in 2004 (Not Microfiber) in excess of \$219 million dollars, and Microfiber (cloth related products) \$134 million dollars. The Despite this history, the invention recited in pending claim 1 of the Goldberg Application has made dramatic roads into the market place and is displacing conventional products.

7. I am aware of competitors of Leading Edge Products, Inc. offering products that infringe aspects of the invention of claim 1.

8. I further declare that all statements of the foregoing declaration are made of my own knowledge and are true and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements are made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful and false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above identified application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed by me this 11th day of July, 2006


David Goldberg

RE: Patent Application #10/651,698, Applicant David S. Goldberg et al.

Dear Sir:

I, Brenda Mee declare as follows:

1. I am a resident of the State of Texas with an address of
15980 CR 431, Lindale, TX 75771
2. I make this Declaration in support of Mr. Goldberg et al.'s
above-referenced U.S. patent application [herein "the Goldberg
application"].
3. I have been employed in the Janitorial products industry for
8 years and within the mop/broom industry for 4 of those 8 years. In my
professional experience I have held the following positions:
Sales Manager
Sales and Marketing Manager – responsible for sales within the federal,
state and commercial markets
Marketing and New Business Development Manager – Responsible for
overall sales, marketing efforts as well as assisting in identifying potential
new products/materials for development.
4. I have reviewed the Goldberg application, including
the pending claims. I understand the invention recited in pending claim 1
of the Goldberg application, and recognize that claim 1 is drawn to "a
string mop having a plurality of non-interwoven cords of yarn comprised
of split microfilaments." Specifically, I understand that claim 1 of the
Goldberg application recites a mop having at least two cords that are
separate and non-interwoven. Each cord comprising a plurality
microfilaments twisted together into a bundle and each of the
microfilaments are split and comprise a core member, a plurality of

projections emanating from the core member and a wedge-shaped insert disposed between every other projection.

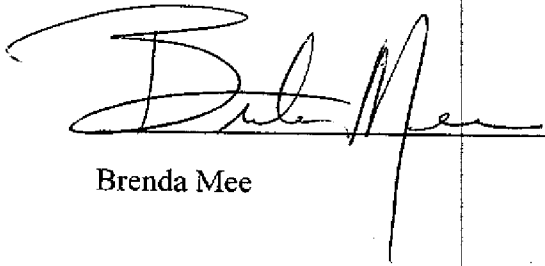
5. I have reviewed the printout of the version of "the-cloth website" [herein "the-cloth website printout"] that was posted on the internet on December 12, 2001. My review of the-cloth website printout indicates the-cloth website printout discloses various textile sheet and fabric products comprised of knitted and woven yarns of microfilaments. I believe the "cross section of fiber" photograph to be illustrative of the type of microfilament used in yarns of the textile sheet or fabric products described in the-cloth website printout. The-cloth website printout does not disclose a single product having separate, non-interwoven yarns (other than possibly a non-woven fabric where the yarns would not be separate). More specifically, the-cloth website printout does not disclose a string style mop having a plurality of separate, non-interwoven yarns comprised split microfilaments including a core member, a plurality of projections emanating from the core member and a wedge-shaped insert disposed between every other projection.

6. I believe that the mop described by claim 1 of the Goldberg application to be a remarkable innovation in the industrial and commercial mop industry. In my 8 years within jan/san industry, I have not seen a string mop having cords of this construction, specifically, separate non-interwoven cords of twisted microfilaments that are split and comprise a core member, a plurality of projections emanating from the core member and a wedge-shaped insert disposed between every other projection. The combination produces an entirely new and uniquely functional product.

7. I further declare that all statements of the foregoing declaration are made of my own knowledge and are true and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true and

further that these statements are made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful and false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above identified application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed by me this 14th day of August, 2006

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Brenda Mee', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first letter 'B' being particularly large and looping.

Brenda Mee